

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of visualizing business agreement interactions, the
2 method comprising:
3 dividing, by a computer, parties into at least three types;
4 displaying, by the computer, one or more parties of a first type as nodes in a first region
5 of a view window;
6 displaying, by the computer, one or more parties of a second type as nodes in a second
7 region of the view window;
8 displaying one or more parties of a third type as nodes in a third region of the view
9 window, wherein the third region is at least substantially between the first and second regions;
10 and
11 displaying, by the computer, agreements between parties as lines between corresponding
12 nodes.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more parties of the first type are
2 suppliers for the one or more parties of the third type.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more parties of the second type are
2 customers for the one or more parties of the third type.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first region is an arc of a circle, and
2 wherein the second region is an opposing arc of the circle.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the third region is a circle diameter that
2 separates the first and second regions.
- 1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the third region is a line separating the first
2 and second regions.

1 7. (Previously Presented) Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said lines
2 are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a violation of a corresponding
3 one of the agreements has occurred.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is color.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is animation.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one characteristic is
2 further indicative of a violation severity, wherein different characteristics associated with said
3 lines are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 displaying a hierarchical tree of business agreement information; and
3 highlighting associated items in the view window as a user selects items in the
4 hierarchical tree.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 displaying agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the first type and a
3 particular party of the third type as parallel lines in one window region;
4 displaying agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the second type and
5 the particular party of the third type as parallel lines in a second window region; and
6 changing one or more of the parallel lines as a function of time to display violations as a
7 function of time.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method of visualizing business agreement interactions, the
2 method comprising:
3 displaying, by a computer, agreement conditions between a first party and one or more
4 parties of a first type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in one region of a view
5 window; and
6 displaying, by the computer, agreement conditions between the first party and one or
7 more parties of a second type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in a second
8 region of a view window,
9 wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a
10 violation of a represented agreement condition has occurred.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the first party is represented by a
2 line separating the first region from the second region, and wherein the first party is a third type
3 of party different from the first and second types.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one characteristic is color.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said displaying actions are animated to show
2 a violation occurrence sequence over time.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one characteristic is
2 further indicative of a violation severity, wherein different characteristics associated with said
3 lines are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising changing the view window as a
2 function of time to display a time sequence of violations.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein parties of the first type are
2 suppliers of the first party, and wherein parties of the second type are customers of the ~~second~~
3 first party.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein agreement conditions between the parties
2 are shown as a time series to indicate an order in which violations occur.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~configured to provide~~
2 containing software for visualizing business agreement interactions to a computer, wherein the
3 software when executed causes the computer to:
4 divide parties into at least three types;
5 display one or more parties of a first type as nodes in a first region of a view window;
6 display one or more parties of a second type as nodes in a second region of the view
7 window;
8 display one or more parties of a third type as nodes in a third region of the view window,
9 wherein the third region is at least substantially between the first and second regions; and
10 display agreements between parties as lines between corresponding nodes.

1 22. (Original) The medium of claim 21, wherein the one or more parties of the first type are
2 suppliers for the one or more parties of the third type, and wherein the one or more parties of the
3 second type are customers for the one or more parties of the third type.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, wherein said lines are displayed with at
2 least one characteristic indicative of whether a violation of a corresponding one of the
3 agreements has occurred.

1 24. (Original) The medium of claim 21, wherein the software further configures the
2 computer to:
3 display agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the first type and a
4 particular party of the third type as parallel lines in one window region;
5 display agreement conditions between the one or more parties of the second type and the
6 particular party of the third type as parallel lines in a second window region; and
7 change one or more of the parallel lines as a function of time to display violations as a
8 function of time.

1 25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~configured to provide~~
2 containing software for visualizing business agreement interactions to a computer, wherein the
3 software when executed causes the computer to:
4 display agreement conditions between a first party and one or more parties of a first type
5 as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in one region of a view window; and
6 display agreement conditions between the first party and one or more parties of a second
7 type as one or more noncrossing groups of parallel lines in a second region of a view window,
8 wherein said lines are displayed with at least one characteristic indicative of whether a
9 violation of a represented agreement condition has occurred.

1 26. (Original) The medium of claim 25, wherein the first party is represented by a line
2 separating the first region from the second region.

1 27. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the different characteristics are different colors
2 that are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 28. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the different characteristics are different colors
2 that are indicative of corresponding different violation severities.

1 29. (New) The medium of claim 23, wherein the lines having different characteristics are
2 indicative of different corresponding violation severities.

- 1 30. (New) The medium of claim 25, wherein the lines having different characteristics are
- 2 indicative of different corresponding violation severities.